revenue. You should remember that Alleppey, until the other day, was not the headquarters of a Tahsildar, and yet that town has grown and is of first importance in the State. I do not think that the time has yet come to re-examine the question of refixing the taluk boundaries.

19. Evils of the latest reorganisation of the Land Revenue Department including Survey.

Mr. Narayanan Madhavan Karta (Member, Shertallai Taluk) said that, at the time of original survey, the Survey Department, without referring to the old *ozhuku* accounts, demarcated and surveyed most of the private holdings which were being utilised for public purposes, such as temple tanks, snake groves, and temple sites, and noted them down as *porambokes* in the survey and demarcation register. The Settlement Department adopted that survey and demarcation and the ryots had not the slightest information about the existence of such *porambokes*. The Member requested that those *poramboke* subdivisions might now be surveyed and demarcated, and the boundaries made clear to the adjacent land-holders as per the actual lay of the land on the ground. If, after that process, the ryots began to encroach, encroachment cases might be taken against them, but not until then. With regard to full *poramboke* numbers, the Land Records Superintendent might be ordered to prepare a statement of such numbers as were in the possession of private individuals, but erroneously recorded as *porambokes* in the settlement, and the mistakes rectified by Government by registering them in the names of the occupants without *tharavila* and without driving them to civil courts for remedy. The Member also complained that demarcation stones were planted without notice to the parties and excessive cost recovered from them for the stones planted by the department, each stone costing as high as Rs. 5, while the actual value was only 5 or 6 *chackrams*, and said that such stones could be sold to the ryots at a lower price.

The Member next observed that a resurvey before resettlement was necessary for the proper maintenance of land records and the efficient administration of land revenue. He prayed that a special officer might be appointed to compile a Resurvey and Resettlement Code and that he might be deputed to collect useful information from British India and other Indian States. Commenting on the recent reorganisation of the Survey Department, he pointed out that the pay assigned to surveyors who had to do a lot of outdoor work was only Rs. 25 to start with, and that was inadequate.

As regards the reorganisation of the Land Revenue Department, the Member pointed out that two difficulties in the proper administration of the Land Revenue Department were the short-handedness of the village staff and the haphazard manner in which the *pakuthies* were formed at the time of the survey. The Member then made the following suggestions for the better administration of the Land Revenue Department:—

(1) A reform should be effected in the splitting up of the *pakuthies* and employing additional staff for the *pakuthies*.

(2) The Assistant Tahsildars who now attended to all revenue work except that of the collection of revenue should be entrusted with that work also.

(3) Since the Land Revenue Commissioner attended to all land revenue affairs, the post of Division Peishkars might be abolished and the Division Assistants might be designated Assistant Commissioners and asked to attend to the work of those officers also, with less pay and less establishment.

(4) The Assistant Tahsildars might be appointed as Tahsildars on their present pay and they might be assisted in the work of *kist* collection by one or two Revenue Inspectors.

Dewan's reply.—The replies I gave to Mr. N. G. Paramesvaran Pillai and Mr. P. K. Mathew yesterday cover most of the ground you have traversed. As I have told them, it is not the intention of the Government to invade private rights, and wherever long and *bona fide* occupations like private *kavus* and private *kshetrams* are

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found, they would be regularised. I trust that the instructions issued will be followed more carefully by the revenue authorities, seeing that they will have more time at their disposal in future.

In regard to demarcation, you say that a stone costs only five *chuckrams*, but that you are charged Rs. 5 for it. I think that there is a certain amount of exaggeration in this. There are two courses open to the holder of the land. If he is willing to plant his own stone, he is allowed to do so. It is only when he does not produce his stone that the land records staff uses the departmental stone and levies from the holder the price of the stone, cost of transmission, labour for planting and cost of supervision. It may perhaps be that in your taluk certain lands are liable to be submerged under water for a certain period of the year and the stones have to be five feet high. I do not think that you can get a stone five feet long for five *chackrams*; it must cost much more.

In regard to land revenue, you have made astoundingly original proposals. You say that Tahsildars and Peishkars are not necessary. If your proposal is pushed to its logical conclusion, the Land Revenue Commissioner and the Dewan may also be said to be not necessary. Your picture is an ideal condition of things, when people could manage all their affairs themselves. I am afraid you are looking in vain for that golden age.

20. Public and private Markets in Travancore.

Mr. Kanakku Tampi Chempakaraman Sankaran (Member, Kalkulam Taluk) said that the chief subject on which he proposed to speak was the levy of fees on articles brought to the evening bazaars. He said that no fees should be levied on the petty articles brought for sale in those evening bazaars. The matter had been represented at the eighteenth session of the Assembly also and the Dewan had then promised to consider it carefully. The Member pointed out that it was the poor people and the day labourers that were most affected by the levy of such fees. Articles such as a cocoanut or two eggs were being taken to those bazaars by those who had to purchase their daily salt and chilly with the proceeds of the sale of those things and it was indeed hard to squeeze a sum of four *cash* out of those poor people. The Market Rules, isssued in 1097, allowed only 2 *cash* for each hand load, but there was hardly any instance in which any sum lower than four *cash* was levied in the evening bazaars. Those who suffered from those oppressive fees could not raise any complaint lest they should have to starve. The Member submitted that in Travancore where an expenditure of Rs. 2 crores was being incurred every year it was not necessary to levy such an impost on the poor, and he implored the Dewan to visit one of those bazaars in the course of his tours, in which case he would be convinced of the reasonableness of the plea. The one reason why so many people applied for licenses to hold private evening bazaars in their own lands was to make enormous profit by oppressing the poor. The Member further pointed out that the cause of all rivalry and dispute between the several castes and sects in the Southern Division lay in their efforts to establish markets of their own. The statutory right that the applicants for licenses obtained in case no order was passed on their application within 60 days helped them in such efforts. Such a right ought to be stopped and it should be laid down that no market should be opened before the applicant actually received a license. A good deal of the evil could be removed if markets could be opened, as far as possible, on Government sites. The principles of sanitation were not observed in the markets, and the Member therefore suggested that, before the opening of a market, the site ought to be approved by the Sanitary Commissioner. The practice of opening a private market on an unsuitable site on the ground that it would benefit a particular individual should be stopped.

Under the Rules, the licensee of a private market was required to make provision for drinking water, to put up latrines and to make proper drainage arrangements. None of those provisions were being insisted on in the case of Government markets, most of which stood in urgent need of improvements. The Monday Market at Eraniel was a striking example. There were no walls enclosing it, nor was there any water convenience there, with the result that even drinking water had to be purchased. Traffic was not possible through the road on market days and tolls were being levied on the carts. The Member, therefore, siggested that 75 per cent. of the income from such markets should be spent on their improvement.

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